

VZCZCXRO9611  
PP RUEHAST RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHLA RUEHMRE RUEHPOD RUEHROV RUEHSK RUEHSR  
DE RUEHC #0169 0631822  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P R 041806Z MAR 09  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 8142  
INFO ORG FOR SECURITY CO OP IN EUR COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STATE 020169

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM PREL ZJ AM AJ

SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL: MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS  
STATEMENT

¶1. Post is authorized to deliver the following statement at  
the March 5, 2009 Permanent Council.

Begin text of statement:

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

On behalf of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, France,  
the Russian Federation and the United States, I have the  
following statement to make:

The Minsk Group Co-Chairs condemn the shooting incident near  
Goradiz along the Line of Contact on February 26, when shots  
were fired during a monitoring mission carried out by the  
Personal Representative of the Chair-in-Office Andrzej  
Kasprzyk.

We call on the parties to adhere scrupulously to the  
ceasefire and express our deep regret that over 30 people  
died and 50 were wounded in 2008 as a result of ceasefire  
violations.

We condemn in strongest terms the violation of the ceasefire  
during the course of an OSCE monitoring mission, particularly  
given that local commanders provided written security  
guarantees to the OSCE monitoring mission just prior to their  
monitoring activities on February 26.

We call for an explanation from the parties for how such an  
egregious violation of the ceasefire could have taken place.

We regret that not all of the parties implemented the  
recommendation made by the Minsk Group Co-Chairs at the  
Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki in December 2008 to  
pull snipers back from the Line of Contact.

We express full support and admiration for the work of  
Personal Representative Kasprzyk and his team, and underline  
the importance of monitoring the Line of Contact as a  
confidence building measure between the sides.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.  
CLINTON